

Ames

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## THE SYNONYMY OF THE ANT *APHAENOGASTER* *LEPIDA* WHEELER

In 1929, only a few months after Menozzi had applied the name *Aphaenogaster silvestrii* to ants collected in Florida, Wheeler described in the same journal a Formosan homonym. In March, 1930, Wheeler corrected his homonym, which then became *A. lepidus*. Unfortunately, both Menozzi and Creighton subsequently proposed *nomina nova* for *A. silvestrii* of Wheeler without noticing that a prior *nomen novum* existed. The resulting synonymy is as follows:

### *APHAENOGASTER LEPIDA* Wheeler

- A. silvestrii* Wheeler, Oct. 1929, Boll. Lab. Zool. Portici 24: 37-40, fig. 3, worker, male; *nec* Menozzi, Aug. 1929, Ibid., 22: 282.
- A. (Attomyrma) lepidus* Wheeler, 1930, Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club 11: 96, *nom. pro A. silvestrii* Wheeler.
- A. phillipi* Menozzi, 1932, Boll. Lab. Zool. Portici 26: 311, *nota, nom. pro A. silvestrii* Wheeler. **New synonymy**
- A. funkikoensis* Creighton, 1950, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 104: 152, *nota, nom. pro A. silvestrii* Wheeler. **New synonymy**

Cases of automatic synonymy in the family Formicidae are probably rather frequent, and their formal recognition will help to relieve the nomenclatorial confusion which exists in the absence of an up-to-date synonymic catalog.—W. L. BROWN, JR., Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass.